

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6419

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USEC BRUSSELS PRIORITY 875

USNATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY 1957

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE

7206TH AIR BASE GROUP PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJ: LABOR: STRIKES CALLED AT U.S. AIR STATION IRAKLION

REF: ATHENS 8034

1. GREEK EMPLOYEES OF PACIFIC ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS COMPANY--WHICH ADMINISTERS BASE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT USAF AIR STATION IRAKLION, CRETE, WENT ON TWENTY-FOUR HOUR STRIKE NOVEMBER 26. ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF APPROXIMATELY 240 GREEK EMPLOYEES WORKING WITH PAE AT IRAKLION HONORED STRIKE CALL. STRIKE CALLED BY LEADERSHIP OF UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF U.S. FORCES, SAME LABOR ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD CALLED STIKE FOR AMERICAN AIR BASE ATHENS NOVEMBER 7 (SEE REFTEL).

2. ALTHOUGH ALL EMPLOYEES OF PAE WORKED NORMAL WORKDAY
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NOVEMBER 27, EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM

UNION SOURCE INDICATING THAT UNION WILL ASK SAME GROUP OF EMPLOYEES TO GO ON FORTY-EIGHT HOUR STRIKE ENCOMPASSING WORKDAYS NOVEMBER 28 AND NOVEMBER 29. FURTHERMORE, SAME SOURCE TOLD EMBASSY THAT A LONGER DURATION STRIKE WOULD BE CALLED AT IRAKLION DURING WEEK COMMENCING DECEMBER 1.

3. CURRENT STIKES SO FAR ONLY AFFECT IRAKLION BASE AND NOT RPT NOT ANY U.S. BASES ON GREEK MAINLAND. ISSUE INVOLVED IN IRAKLION STRIKE RELATES TO DEMAND FOR INCREASE OF PAY RATTES SO THAT SALARIES WOULD BE EQUALIZED WITH THOSE RECEIVED BY CERTAIN CATEGORIES GREEK EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR US FORCES, BUT LEGALLY EMPLOYED BY HELLENIC AIR FORCE, IN ATHENS AREA.

4. UNION SPOKESMAN HAS ALSO TOLD EMBASSY THAT UNION LEADERSHIP CALLED FOR SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 3 IN ATHENS AT OFFICES OF UNION OF EDITORS OF ATHENS DAILY NEWSPAPERS AT WHICH UNION WOULD ATTEMPT "ENLIGHTEN" JOURNALISTS ON ISSUES INVOLVED IN RECENT STRIKE AT AMERICAN AIR BASE ATHENS (REFTEL). OF VARIOUS ISSUES ORIGINALLY RAISED BY UNION LEADERSHIP IN BEHALF ITS MEMBERS WORKING AT U.S. AIR BASE ATHENS, FOCUS NOW SEEMS TO BE ON UNFOUNDED ALLEGATION THAT NUMBER OF "AMERICAN DEPENDENTS AND TOURISTS" ARE ILLEGALLY HIRED TO DETRIMENT OF GREEK WORKERS.
KUBISCH

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